on the other hand efficiency, and on the third, there is the question of age and examination. There is no royal road to the decision of the question of recruitment to the public service. As I have said before, I do not think that any Government has satisfactorily solved this question of recruitment yet. It is a question which is constantly in my thoughts, but it is a question the solution of which is very difficult.

Then in regard to corruption, laziness, and unsatisfactory work, it will be idle to deny that there is corruption or to say that there are no lazy or indifferent officers. Some members denounced the service in unmeasured terms, while others were moderate. It is very easy to denounce. But what are the remedies suggested? One gentleman, I think it was Mr. P. K. Joseph, suggested peculiar remedies, which reminds me of the method advocated by Kautilya in his *Arthasastra*, namely, that the State should employ detectives to detect corruption in the public service. I cannot think of a surer way of promoting false and unjust complaints against public officials than the employment of detectives. Until people themselves are bold enough to come forward and denounce bad officials, Government and the high officers of Government can do very little to put down corruption. I have known in more backward tracts in the Madras Presidency hundreds of people coming forward to denounce bad officials. This is not a backward country; this is not a country where people are afraid of coming forward and speaking out openly their grievances. Until the people cooperate with Government by giving specific instances and affording proof, it is not possible for Government to put down corruption. If such proof is forthcoming, Government will not be lagging behind to put down corruption, by instituting judicial enquiries and severely punishing those proved at those enquiries to be corrupt. The only safe way of deciding whether there has been corruption or not is to hold a proper enquiry. Even a criminal is entitled to a fair trial. No officer can be convicted of corruption or any other serious charge without a proper enquiry. I do not think Government is helped very much by vague statements, couched in very strong language, of corruption, inefficiency, and so on.

159. The Government and the governed.

Mr. P. C. Kesava Pillai (Member, Vilavankod Taluk) first deplored the wrangle exhibited at the Assembly among members from the different communities for Government appointments and said that it detracted from the prestige and dignity of the Assembly. He dwelt upon the vagaries of heads of departments in the treatment accorded to their subordinates and cited, as an instance, how Mr. C. E. Kesava Pillai, B. A., who was Assistant Excise Commissioner was compulsorily retired on the strength of certain false charges preferred against him by the Excise Commissioner. He also asserted that on enquiry it was found that Mr. Kesava Pillai was in the right.

Dewan.—You should ascertain facts definitely before making a statement. You are making a defamatory statement against a responsible officer. I should like to know whether you make yourself responsible for your statement.

Member.—I withdraw my statement.

The Member then said that another officer, Mr. G. V. Subrahmanya Aiya, who was dismissed from the Cochin Service, was entertained in the Department of Public Works, Travancore. That officer was not above board. When he was in Kuzhitturai he misappropriated certain iron girders and other bridge materials. Though the Chief Engineer reported against him, he was transferred from his department and entertained in the Maramat Department.

Dewan.—You are again making defamatory statements without holding yourself responsible for them.

Member.—If my statements are not correct, I withdraw them.

The Member then spoke about corruption generally and was of opinion that the only remedy against it was the deletion from the Penal Code of Sections 153 to 156 dealing with illegal gratification.

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The inauguration of the Devaswom Department had brought certain disabilities to Nairs as a community. The landed properties of several temples once belonged to Nairs and in course of time passed into the hands of Ezhavas in North Travancore and Nadars in South Travancore. Thus on the one side they had to fight against the Government and on the other side either against Ezhavas or Nadars. To save them from that trouble it was necessary that those landed properties which had been given away by their ancestors to temples as free gifts should now be restored to them.

The Member then stated that the Kanikars of the taluk living near the Kodayar dam were being persecuted by the menials of the Forest Department in various ways. Another disability from which they were suffering was that they were subject to the attack of small-pox. The only remedy he could suggest was that they should be vaccinated.

Finally, the Member represented that there was once a proposal to appoint female vaccinators and he did not know why that proposal was not given effect to.

Dewan's reply.—It is difficult to give you a reply. You are making several defamatory statements without making yourself responsible for them. I do not propose to deal with them at all.

You suggested that certain sections of the Penal Code should be deleted. That is a matter for the legislature.

You made certain suggestions for vaccinating Kanikars. Everybody will be vaccinated under the rules. The employment of female vaccinators is a different matter. I am not sure about what you say in regard to them. You do not seem to know that female vaccinators were as a matter of fact entertained some time ago.

160. Constitutional reforms.

Mr. N. Madhavan Nair B. A., B. L. (Member, Trivandrum Taluk) took a brief survey of the origin and growth of popular institutions in the State which bore eloquent testimony to the far-sighted statesmanship of His Highness the Maha Raja and stated that among the reforms recently inaugurated none occupied such a prominent position as the great forward step taken under Regulation II of 1097. Travancore, he said, would ever remember with gratitude the endeavours of the present Dewan to make popular government a living factor in the State, though only within rigidly defined narrow limits at present. Although that Regulation was a decided improvement upon its predecessor, Regulation I of 1095, it had a good many defects and drawbacks. There were several provisions which imposed drastic limitations on the free exercise of the new rights conferred on the people. The number of reserved subjects under Section 11 was unnecessarily large—as many as 13—and that Section, in the Member's opinion, stood in need of amendment on more liberal lines. The number of reserved subjects should be not more than two, *viz.*, those relating to the Ruling Family and the relations of the Government with the Paramount Power or with other States under the treaties and agreements now in force. Another right demanded by the Member was that of enabling the members of the Legislative Council to discuss the salaries and allowances of heads of departments and other superior officers of the State. The annual discussion of the State Budget would furnish an opportunity for a scrutiny of the actions of the officers of the higher grade. The Member contended that the exclusion of the consideration of such an item from the purview of the Legislative Council had the effect of making the officers self-centred and irresponsible and therefore urged that the defect might be removed along with the distinction between votable and non-votable items of the State budget, the non-votable items being confined solely to allotments which came under the reserved subjects.

The Member disapproved of the Dewan being the President of the Legislative Council and pleaded for the President being elected from among the elected members of the Council. He said that he was also not in favour of the President having two votes on all questions which came up for decision and quoted for guidance the corresponding section of the Government of India Act relating to the Indian Legislative Assembly and the Council of State which ran as follows:—

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